

Application No. 09/400,833
Response dated December 8, 2003
Reply to Office Action of September 26, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (currently amended): A machine including a workpiece-transfer device as in Claim 20, wherein the product and material-housing sections have a total length in the second horizontal direction not exceeding that of the said workpiece-machining device in the second horizontal direction.

Claim 3 (currently amended): A machine including a workpiece-transfer device as in Claim 20, wherein the rectangular coordinate movement means moves said traveling body to said product and material-housing sections so that said traveling body can be moved to position and load a material workpiece gripped by the gripping means of said traveling body, relative to a positioning member of said workpiece-machining device.

Claim 4 (cancelled)

Claim 5 (cancelled)

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Claim 6 (cancelled)

Claim 7 (cancelled)

Claim 8 (cancelled)

Claim 9 (cancelled)

Claim 10 (cancelled)

Claim 11 (cancelled)

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (cancelled)

Claim 14 (cancelled)

Claim 15 (cancelled)

Claim 16 (cancelled)

Claim 17 (cancelled)

Claim 18 (cancelled)

Claim 19 (currently amended): A machine including a workpiece-transfer device as in Claim 20, wherein said workpiece-storage device includes a skeleton-housing section in parallel with said second direction and on a side of the material-housing section opposed to said product-housing section.

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Claim 20 (currently amended): A machine including a workpiece-transfer device for transferring a material workpiece and a machined product workpiece between a workpiece-machining device and a workpiece-storage device, the workpiece-transfer device loading the material workpiece on the workpiece-machining device and unloading the machined product workpiece from the workpiece-machining device, comprising:

a traveling body;

a gripping means provided on the traveling body for gripping the material workpiece and the machined product workpiece; and

a rectangular coordinate movement means for moving the traveling body in a first horizontal direction in which the workpiece-machining device and the workpiece-storage device are located in a line, and in a second horizontal direction orthogonal to the first horizontal direction, wherein the traveling body can be moved simultaneously in the first and second directions;

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wherein said workpiece-storage device is provided with a product-housing section for stacking the machined product workpiece and a material-housing section for stacking the material workpiece, the product-housing section being located parallel to the material-housing section, wherein both of the product-housing section and the material-housing section are arranged in the second horizontal direction, and wherein said traveling body is moved above the product-housing section and the material-housing section on the workpiece-storage device.

G. Conclusions